Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 05669 020908Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
----------040890 020909Z /13
O 020759Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 5669

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: MARR, MASS, PARM, PGOV, ET, IS, US
SUBJECT: ISRAELI MISSION TO ETHIOPIA

REF: STATE 180134

1. I RELAYED RESPONSE IN REFTEL IMMEDIATELY TO FONMIN DAYAN. HE THANKED ME VERY MUCH, AND ASSURED ME IT HAD ARRIVED JUST IN TIME FOR HIM TO GIVE NECESSARY INSTRUCTIONS TO GENERAL HOFFI.

2. DAYAN COMMENTED DRYLY: "I GATHER THAT YOU DON'T TRUST MENGISTU VERY MUCH." I SAID WE HARDLY HAVE REASON TO.

3. DAYAN SAID HE WOULD INSTRUCT HOFFI NOT RPT NOT TO ENCOURAGE ETHIOPIANS TO APPROACH U.S. HE UNDERSTANDS ALSO THAT WE WOULD NOT AGREE TO ISRAEL'S TRANSFERRING ANY U.S.-ORIGIN DEFENSE ARTICLES AT THIS TIME.

4. MOREOVER, IN VIEW OF OUR ARGUMENTS ABOUT ADVERSE EFFECT ON MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT EFFORTS OF ISRAEL'S JOINING WITH USSR AND LIBYA AS AGAINST EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA, DAYAN SAID HE WOULD TELL HOFFI TO LIMIT FURTHER ISRAELI COMMITMENTS FOR ASSISTANCE TO BARE MINIMUM
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NECESSARY TO PROTECT EXISTING ISRAELI POSITION IN ETHIOPIA.

5. COMMENT WITH REGARD TO PARA FOUR, I AM NOT CERTAIN DAYAN'S INITIAL REACTION WILL ULTIMATELY PREVAIL HERE. BEGIN REMAINS INTRIGUED BY POSSIBILITY OF WEANING MENGISTU AWAY FROM SOVIETS, AND AS YOU SAY ISRAELI

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INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT DIFFERES FROM OURS. MOREOVER, ISRAELIS WILL BE SORELY TEMPTED TO DO AS MUCH AS THEY CAN TO HANG ON TO ONE OF THEIR LAST AND OLDEST FOOTHOLDS IN ARFICA--ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF ITS STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE FOR THEM. I BELIEVE DAYAN SEES THE USSR/ LIBYA-EGYPT/SAUDI ARABIA ARGUMENT MUCH AS WE DO-- BUT OTHERS HERE, PERHAPS INCLUDING BEGIN--WILL BE MORE SKEPTICAL.

6. DEPARTMENT PLEASE REPEAT THIS MESSAGE TO ALEXANDRIA FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY.
LEWIS

SECRET

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, POLITICAL SITUATION, CAT-A
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Reference: 77 STATE 180134
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Review Date: 22-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
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